

**From:** Jennifer Bales  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/19/01 5:34pm  
**Subject:** Opposition to settlement

I write to oppose the Microsoft settlement with the DOJ. Microsoft almost entirely ignored their last consent decree, and I see no reason why they won't do the same again. They do not feel that they have done anything wrong, and there is no penalty for continuing their practices, so why would they change anything.

Please, step outside your offices and talk off the record to people in the software industry. Microsoft is the primary killer of innovation and new products in the market. Any time a company comes up with a new product that is threatening to Microsoft's monopoly, Microsoft either (1) buys it, (2) announces their own similar product to ship "very soon." Who will buy the new product when Microsoft is going to bring one out "very soon"? Especially since, in the hard cases, Microsoft can simply add the functionality to Windows for "free". And then raise the price of Windows to account for it, of course.

This is a truly terrible deal for the software industry. You have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. We will be back in this exact same place again in another few years - if any companies beside Microsoft are still standing to complain. Please reconsider.

Regards,  
Jennifer

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